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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-third session
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

MEASURES TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
AND THE ROLE OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

Overview of current trends of racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia against vulnerable groups in the world

Note of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-second session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted resolution 1990/2 in which it expressed its deep concern regarding signs of an upsurge of racism, with accompanying manifestations of prejudice, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia in many parts of the world directed against ethnic, national, religious and linguistic minorities, indigenous peoples, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups.

2. By paragraph 4 of this resolution, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of replies obtained from Governments, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations as well as from non-governmental organizations, an overview of current trends of racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia affecting the above-mentioned groups, as well as of measures taken by Governments against those phenomena and the effects of such measures and to submit the overview for consideration by the Sub-Commission at its forty-third session.

GE.91-12145/6313a

3. In compliance with the resolution of the Sub-Commission, a request was addressed on 28 February 1991 to all Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, inviting comments and relevant information that might be taken into account in the preparation of the report to the Sub-Commission.

4. At the time of writing of the present report, the number of replies received (from three Governments, three intergovernmental organizations and one non-governmental organization) did not permit the overview called for by the resolution to be prepared.

5. Under the circumstances, the Sub-Commission may wish to consider deferring consideration of the overview until its forty-fourth session, at which time additional information would hopefully have been secured which would permit the overview to be prepared.